

## THE-MAN-ON-THE-CORNER.

Keeps Out the Way of Automobiles and Turns  
a Sweeping Field-Glass Upon the Passing Throng  
- Physics, Politics and Business. -

"There's a chie among ye takin' n' tes."

The Man-on-the-Corner keeps well inside the curb when he sees a well-known automobile sailing merrily in his direction. It is manned by a physician whose care in difficult operations is unexcelled and whose treatment of a patient is as gentle as a lamb, but when a medico's practice grows so large and the demand for his personal presence is so insistent, the wisest thing for the Man-on-the-Corner and all others to do, when they see Dr. John R. Francis heave into sight, is to get out of the way. He is the only colored physician using this mode of locomotion. Dr. Francis is indeed a busy man, and his general practice, covering much territory, is enough to occupy the waking



Dr John R. Francis

hours of the average individual. In addition to this, however, he conducts at 2112 Pennsylvania avenue, a commodious sanitarium, where are found every convenience and appliance necessary to the treatment of any known disease. The offices are finely furnished, the operating rooms are elaborately equipped with modern tables, chairs, and instruments and the bed chambers are light, airy and cheerfully arranged. Patients are boarded and kept as long as may be expedient and the nurses are well-trained in their duties. The Doctor is public-spirited to the last degree, and is quick to see the shortest route to the accomplishment of any object of racial benefit. His executive ability was well demonstrated during his stay at Freedmen's Hospital, during a large part of which time he was in full charge. Our churches, schools, business departments and social circles all feel the uplifting influence of Dr. John R. Francis and his splendid family.

Gossipers are sometimes right, although "most in generally" wrong. Just now the storm center of journalistic gossip hedges about the future presidency of the well-known Pen and Pencil Club. The incumbent presiding officer is Prof. L. M. Hershaw, a young man of brilliant parts, who has earned a firm place in the public eye as a news writer and general scholar. He was the choice of the founders of the club, and his administration has been so successful that whoever follows him will have to do some tall hustling. The annual election occurs in May, but speculation is already rife as to the succession. It is understood that Mr. Hershaw positively declines to stand for re-election and First Vice-President Thompson, next in line of promotion, states that under no circumstances will he be a candidate. Mr. Paynter, next in line, is non-committal, and Messrs. Cobb and Slaughter are apparently satisfied to remain as secretary and treasurer. The men who are said to be actual aspirants are Mr. W. L. Houston, acting head of the governing board, and Mr. Robert Pelham, Jr., formerly editor of the Dis-

trict Plaindealer, now corresponding secretary of the organization. Both deny that a presidential bee is buzzing in their respective bonnets, but neither has declined to rest in the "hands of his friends." The position may be useful to a president who is desirous of formulating public sentiment along lines in which he is particularly interested. Who knows but that Mr. Houston may not find the services of such a national press bureau potential in landing him high and dry this fall upon the B. M. C. Board of Directors of the National Grand Order of Odd Fellows, a place of power and influence? Michigan Afro-Americans have nothing worth mentioning under the Government. Why should not Mr. Pelham, one of our premier journalists, do a good work for the race—and incidentally for himself—by convincing the political leaders that the press of the country would act very kindly toward them in the coming Congressional fight, if a snug section chiefship could be found for him in the permanent census, or a nice timber agency could be marked out for him by the Interior Department?

Mr. Menard has many friends and would be available, but he might not accept, as it is said he is not in favor of the dual method of administration, in which the president is a figure-head,



Dr C. W. Childs.

and the governing board the actual authority. He is of the opinion that the president should be ex-officio, the head of this board, as the responsibility lies primarily in the chief executive. Mr. Menard is one of the founders of the club. Some changes are expected in the governing board, and between now and May there is likely to be some vigorous, but friendly, "log-rolling," for vantage ground between the "factions." The fellows are all experienced politicians, and each is closely watching the sleeve of his neighbor. This may be all idle gossip, but it is the business of the Man-on-the-Corner to take note of what he sees and hears, and as you know, dear reader, there is nothing half so delightful as meddling in other people's affairs.

Following up our discussion of last week upon the necessity for a Negro Business League here we are led to another interesting train of thought by the very timely and practical address of Dr. C. W. Childs, delivered off-hand a few Sundays ago at the Second Baptist Lyceum. Dr. Childs is an ardent race man, and is everything but a dreamer. He is up-to-date, wide-awake and has won a high place in the medical world by the legitimate method of conscientious work. He practices what he preaches and expects no man to do for him what he would not do for others. He has heard numerous complaints from colored men in business that they are not patronized by the race—that Negroes pass by colored groceries, shoe stores, drug stores and the like, to buy

of a German, Irishman or Jew. The Doctor admits that much of the complaint is just and that our lack of co-operation is to be deplored; but, he urges us to face the truth and see if the case hasn't two sides. Business cannot be run on sentiment. The public is kind when it is able, but the head of a family must buy where he can buy to the best advantage—when he can get the most and the best for the least money. If the Irishman can sell sweet breakfast bacon at 15 cents a pound, the black merchant cannot sell an inferior mass of grease and bone for 18 cents. If the German or Jew can fit you with a nice easy pair of shoes for \$3.00, you will not pay \$4.00 to a Negro for a pair that will burn your feet and raise corns. Whether you deal with a doctor, lawyer, dressmaker or what not, you want proper service, and before a colored person can make loud complaint let him see that he gives value received on par with his white competitor. The Negro who asks for trade must take his chances in the open market, other things being equal and showing no prejudice against white merchants—for prejudice either way reacts in time—colored people should go out of their way to patronize our own class, because we need it most. Again, colored merchants and business factors should bid for white trade as well by offering the freshest products at the most moderate prices. We shall win when we live up to the same standards of business upon which the white American has made himself the master of the commercial world.

To agitate, to instruct, to inspire our tradesmen along these lines is a work that is sorely needed and a strong business league is the force that must do it. Colored merchants must improve their stock and make their service more efficient. They must learn to buy to advantage in order to sell to advantage. The strength of a people is in their commercial power. Dr. Childs' address ought to bear fruit. He talked wisely and well. Let it add to the sentiment for a Negro Business League.

It seems that the white women of the country vie with their Afro-American sisters in honoring Mrs. Mary Church Terrell. It is difficult for the Man-on-the-Corner to accurately unravel the skein of national and subordinate councils through which the fair sex bend their energies to the uplift of humanity, but it may be interesting to know that at the recent meeting of the National Woman's Suffrage Association, at the First Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Terrell had the unusual distinction of representing the Equal Suffrage Association of Washington (white), composed of four sub-organizations of noted memberships. The broad and liberal sentiment of these clubs is shown by the fact that on a secret straw vote to quietly develop preferences, Mrs. Terrell was chosen delegate on the first ballot. It is no small honor to be a life member of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association, but at the last session Mrs. Terrell was enrolled as such upon motion of Mrs. E. A. Russell, a wealthy white lady of Minneapolis, Minn. The fee is \$50, which Mrs. Russell promptly paid out of her own pocket. When our worthy women are so generously treated by the cultured and really representative people of the land, it is an encouragement for the entire race to work for self-improvement, and do you know, we are almost being brought to a point where we can sympathize with that poor, benighted class of white folks who are too mentally weak to free themselves from the degrading shackles of color prejudice.

If Washington is afflicted with any pessimists who try to believe that all our Negro lawyers are failures they should drop into the cosy office of Barrister Joseph H. Stewart at 609 F street, northwest. He will be found up to his ears in business, preparing papers, consulting clients, or getting ready to represent somebody in the civil courts, to which practice he devotes himself exclusively, and with excellent financial results, both to himself and patrons. Late at night you will find him at home studying diligently the fine points of some intricate equity case that requires especial attention. He doesn't waste his time arguing politics nor have we ever heard that he posed as a "race

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

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